

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation + planning

Organization: Hanson Historical Commission

Date (month / year): June 2018

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form
Number

43-0-43 -0

Hanover

HNS.242

Town/City: Hanson

Place: (neighborhood or village):

Address: 37 Maquan Street

Historic Name: Primary School #2

Uses: Present: Primary School

Original: Single-Family Residential

Date of Construction: ca. 1795

Source: White's History, Plan 8 No. 6, page 116

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Parged

Wall/Trim: Wood Shingle/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: A prefabricated wood shingled shed is located to the northeast of the house

Major Alterations (with dates): Enclosed porch on south façade, shed dormers, exterior chimney, and vinyl replacement windows.

Condition: Fair

Moved: no

yes **Date:**

Acreage: .23 Acres

Setting: Located near the center of Hanson, the small house is one of a few surviving single family homes left in an area which has over time become an institutional center for the community with a Catholic Church next door, playing fields and the middle school across the street, and the library and Town Hall within easy walking distance.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

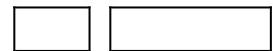
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- Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The one-and-a-half story building has an unusually narrow front façade with an asphalt shingled gable-end roof extending over its rectangular footprint. Long shed dormers extend along both roof slopes, beginning just below the roof ridge and extending down to just short of the gable roof's eaves. A hip roof covers an enclosed porch which extends across the first floor of the south gable-end. The house is wood shingle sided with wood trim which is painted on the south gable-end but left unpainted on the side facades. It also has a mix of vinyl replacement and original wood two-over-two double hung windows. The roof extends out over the facades just far enough to provide space for the heavy wood trim surrounding the eaves and soffits. Wide bands of wood molding surround the pediment of the south gable-end with short, thick returns at each corner over a wide but short cornice board. This cornice board continues around the gable facades and below the molding surrounding the eaves. The shed roofs are also trimmed with heavy wood molding that surrounds the eaves of the shed roofed dormer on all sides. A single, corbeled brick chimney is located at the north end of the gable-end roof. On the west façade, a concrete block chimney runs up the southwest corner of the house and dormer.

The house faces south towards the street with a single double hung window at the center of its gable-end. Although the shadow of former shutters is visible on either side of this window, the shutters themselves have been removed. The hip roof of the enclosed front porch begins just below the window and extends out over the first floor on all three sides. A slightly narrower cornice board runs below the thinner wood eaves of the porch roof. The hip roof extends out over the front entrance, where it is supported by thin turned wood posts at each corner. A fiberglass replacement door with a fan style light at its center opens onto a low brick landing and walkway leading to the driveway to the west. A large, four part mid-twentieth century awning window is located on the south façade of the porch to either side of the entrance.

On the west façade, three pairs of double hung windows line the dormer to the left of the chimney over four double hung windows on the first floor. A small, rectangular awning window is located at the top of the west façade of the enclosed porch as well. The east façade has the same window pattern on its dormer and in the enclosed porch, but only three double hung windows on its first floor. An open wood deck with wood board railings is visible around the northeast corner of the house on the north façade.

The house sits at the center of a small, flat lot covered in grass lawn. Stones line the street along its south property line and the granite bollards lining the east and west property lines date back to its days as a primary school house. Mature trees are located along the east and west property lines and around the northeast corner of the site. A wide asphalt paved driveway extends from the street to the southwest corner of the house, turning into a dirt driveway after this point and continuing on to the gable-end storage shed in the northeast corner of the site. The prefabricated wood shed has wood shingle siding and a large double door on its south façade.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

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According to White's *History of Hanson*, this house was originally constructed as Primary School #2, and was believed to be one of the first two schools built in Hanson. The building served as a school until 1922, and the building was sold at public auction by Mr. C.O. Davis, auctioneer, on July 5, 1930 to Albert L. Hall for \$295. This is the only former school house to remain in its original location after it was repurposed, and White notes that the granite bollards surrounding the house and noted in the architectural description above were also part of the original school site. School No. 2 appears on the first map of Hanson, the 1830 Smith Plan, in the house's current location, as well as on the 1856 Walling Map, although at this time it is only listed as "School." While the school is entirely missing from the 1879 Walker Atlas, this appears to be an oversight as "School No.2" is again shown in its original location on the 1903 Richards Atlas.

The Town did not purchase the land on which the school was to be located. The school was built on land owned at that time by Isaac Thomas(1747-1830) and his daughter, Lydia Cushing Thomas(1788-1864). Lydia was the daughter of Isaac and his second wife, Ann (or Anna) Cushing (1760-1821) and may have inherited her mother's interest in the property following her death. Although no mention is made of the school when Isaac sold the land to his daughter and son-in-law, Abeizer and Anna C. Alger of West Bridgewater,¹ Isaac had five children between the ages of 4 and 13 at this time and may have been encouraged to fund the construction of the school himself. Abeizer Alger (1787-1863) was the son of Hepzibah and Abeizer Alger of Bridgewater and married Anna Cushing Thomas in 1812. Although there is no evidence that Alger ever lived in Hanson or left West Bridgewater, Anna Cushing Thomas had grown up in Hanson when it was still considered part of Pembroke. Abeizer's older brother, Cyrus Alger (1781-1856) became an internationally known iron founder, inventor, and proprietor of the South Boston Iron Works. He supplied the government with large numbers of cannon balls during the War of 1812, and his works became famed for the excellent ordnance there manufactured.²

In 1852, the Hanson School District No. 2 leased the property from Alger and his daughter and son-in-law, Julia Alger Drury and Otis Drury.³ The lease describes the property as already containing the school house, and the terms of the lease require that the school committee be responsible for maintaining and occupying the building as well as constructing a new five foot tall wood board fence surrounding the lot. Little additional information is available about the school for the next seventy-five years. Further research in the annual town reports of the late nineteenth century is recommended to see if there is further information available there on expenditures for the building and the town's lease of the site from 1852 through 1925.

The school was still standing but no longer in use or school purposes in 1925 when James Drury, son of Abeizer and Annie Alger, sold the property to Albert H. Hall of Quincy.⁴ Albert Hall was a real estate salesman and like Alger, does not appear to have ever lived on the property. Although he owned the land, he did not own the school building itself until he bought it at auction in 1930, after which he took a mortgage out on the site and converted the school into a house. In 1934, the Plymouth Co-Operative Federal Savings and Loan Association foreclosed on his mortgage and took ownership of the site.⁵ In 1941, James E. and Evelyn C. Sullivan of Whitman purchased the property from the bank and became the first owners to live in Hanson.⁶ The Sullivans did not live here long, however, selling the property in 1946 to Joyce and Robert Bedell, who sold it again in 1947 to James and Ruth Cribben.⁷

¹ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 164, Page 45

² Wikipedia site for Cyrus Alger, www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyrus_Alger

³ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 248, Page 64

⁴ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1482, Page 100

⁵ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1667, Page 130-131

⁶ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1820, Page 30

⁷ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1911, Page 60, 1963, page 217

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After Ruth passed away in 1952, James moved to Beaumont, Texas and the property was sold again in 1958 to Marguerite L. and Daniel J. Shoughrow.⁸ In 1964 Marguerite Shoughrow, now Marguerite L. Condon, sold the property to Charles H. and Alice C. McLain.⁹ Although there is no further record of the McLains living in Hanson during this period, the couple continued to own the house until 1982, when they sold it to Russell and Mary Bowles.¹⁰ The Bowles owned the house until 2004, when they sold it to Richard Deibel and Richard and Joanna Deibel II. The Deibels sold the property to its current owners, Cody Silva and Katie McHugh, in 2016.

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⁸ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 2638, Page 165

⁹ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 3091, Page 279

¹⁰ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 5250, Page 264

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